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SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

(Appln. No. 10/666,575-Amendment B)

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of the housing when the hoppers are mounted inside the housing. The window openings 40 and 42 are generally unblocked and generally open when the ingredient hoppers are not mounted within the housing ~~18~~12.

Preferably, the entire bodies of the removable hoppers are made of translucent or transparent plastic such that the window 36. When the entire ingredient hopper is made of translucent material the portion of the side of the hopper that aligns with the window opening is the window. Alternatively, the windows are only provided at the locations of the window openings.

As best seen in Fig.3, the ingredient hoppers 32 and 34 each have a mounting member or flange 106 integrally formed together with the hopper body and the window, that is located adjacent the open top 108 of the ingredient hopper. The flange 106 extends laterally outwardly from the sides and around the perimeter of the open top 108 for hanging the hopper from a mating underlying support member 110 located adjacent the top of the housing 12. The flange 108 is downwardly turned and extends downwardly along the perimeter of the open top alongside the side of the housing to restrain the hopper against lateral movement relative to the housing 12. A housing cover 112, is hingedly mounted by pivot pins connected to the hopper assembly housing, and is used to close the open top of the housing.

In keeping with an important aspect of the invention, the mounting of the hoppers 32 and 34 within the housing 12 and removal from the housing is accomplished manually without the need for any tools.

Referring now to Figs.3, 4A and 4B, the ingredient hoppers each have an outlet opening 112 for passage of the ingredient from the hopper into the grinding chamber. The

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outlet opening 112 has an outlet closure assembly 115 that automatically closes the outlet opening 112 when the hopper is removed from the frame 20 that prevents spillage of the ingredient. When the hopper is removed for cleaning, loading or replacement with another hopper containing a different ingredient, from the frame 12, the closure assembly 114 automatically closes the hopper outlet opening 112 in response to removal from the housing, or whenever the closure assembly is not being forced to an open position. This prevents spillage of any unground ingredient into the housing or elsewhere and enables removal by the users as needed, without the need for any tools or the need for any actions needed to disconnect the hopper from the housing except the mere lifting of the hopper out of the top of the housing.

The outlet closure assembly 115 includes a closure member, or cover plate, 116 that is mounted to the hopper for sliding movement between a closed position, as shown in Fig. 4A, in which the hopper outlet opening 112 is covered by a portion of the cover plate 116, and an open position, as shown in Fig. 4B, in which the hopper outlet opening 112 is aligned with an opening 126 in the cover plate and uncovered, or open. The cover plate 116 is biased for movement from the closed position, as seen in Fig.4A, and the open position, as seen in Fig. 4B with a spring 118.

Within the hopper assembly housing is a solenoid 120. When the hopper 32 or 34 is located in its operative position, as shown in Fig. 3, the closure member is aligned for selectively resisting the spring 118 to move the cover plate 116 from the closed position

to the open position. As seen in Fig.3, when the solenoid ~~118~~120 is energized, a solenoid plunger, pusher member, or pin, 127 is extended from the solenoid ~~118~~120 and pushes on an upturned, generally vertical, side wall 122 of the cover plate 116 to move the cover plate

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